

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is the examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 19, 34 and 41 among other things teach:

This system uses cascading over multiple lookup tables. A first lookup table uses a portion a first portion of a packet header. The first lookup table also uses a subset of second lookup table. The first portion of the packet header comprises a first part of a multicast group destination address, the first lookup table identifies a subset of a second lookup table and the subset of the second look up table comprises at least one entry. Accessing the subset of the second lookup table based on a second portion of the packet header, wherein the second portion of the packet header comprises at least a second part of the multicast group destination address, and the accessing the first lookup table and the accessing the subset of the second lookup table are performed by a network device.

2. The closes prior art of record are Sanchez (US 2003/0223402) and Choe (2002/0118682). The differences between these prior art applications and this application are explained in remarks dated 05/23/2001.

3. For these reasons, in conjunction with all other limitations in this particular claim, puts this case in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **CORRESPONDANCE INFORMATION**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GERALD SMARTH whose telephone number is (571)270-1923. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday(7:30am-5:00pm)est.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Pwu can be reached on (571)272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/G. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2478

/Kenny S Lin/

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2478